GATT

4231. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs a few months back;

(b) what consequential legislation is in the offing to meet the requirement of the agreement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. India signed GATT-94 on 15th April, 1994.

(b) and (c) Agriculture Ministry is processing the sui-generis legislation in which it is proposed to protect the traditional and in-alienable rights of the farmers to save, use, exchange, share and sell seeds on a non-commercial basis and the researchers rights to have free access to the protected material.

Floods in Karnataka

4232. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total assessment of loss in the recent floods in Karnataka, by the Central Observers;

(b) whether the Central Government has released any assistance to Karnataka apart from releasing quarterly instalments from Central Reserve Fund;

(c) whether the Central Government have released additional assistance to Gujarat in addition to release of funds from Central Reserve Fund; and

(d) if so, why Karnataka has not been given additional assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) On the directions of Prime Minister, Union Minister of State for Defence visited the flood affected areas in Karnataka. The State Government reported to the Minister a total damage of Rs. 93.50 crores based on their initial assessment.

(b) Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure, State Governments are required to meet all expenditure rising out of natural calamities from the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). There is no provision for any additional assistance for relief expenditure other than the CRF. Government of India has released to the State in advance the third and fourth quarterly instalments of Central share of CRF for the year 1994-95 amounting to Rs. 10,125 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Assistance sought by Karnataka Government for Agricultural Developmental Schemes

4233. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has submitted two proposals to the Centre seeking external aid to the extent of Rupees 153 crores under a comprehensive agricultural developmental scheme and to modernise irrigation tanks in the State;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government had also sent a proposal seeking Rupees 37 crore-aid from World Bank for desiliting of 165 tanks and another proposal to secure Rupees 116 crores assistance from the European Economic Community Consortium Fund; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Centre to sanction the farm assistance sought for by the Karnataka State and process the other proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir. However, discussions have taken place with the State Government of Karnataka for a comprehensive Agricultural Development Project with World Bank assistance for Karnataka.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Report on Organic Farming

4234. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the

Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a task force has submitted a report to Government on organic farming and has made certain recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in view of the need for exports of organic food, specially in view of drop in exports of tea, rice and other farm products due to consumer resistance in the West on account of pesticide residue contamination.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation constituted a Technical Group to study the possibilities for promoting organic farming. The Team visited certain farms, research Institutions in States and made recommendations which are mostly theoretical and advisory in nature like suggestions to encourage the use of organic manures, green manures, biofertilisers and creation of awareness among farmers about the benefits of orgnaic farming, to encourage dairies among the landless labourers, adoption of approach of Integrated Pest Management and incentives for production of organic manures. The team also suggested that ICAR should take up the proposals to formulate package of practices for organic farming including use of compost and various methods of composing and may also organise training for extension workers and farmers in the methods to use biofertilisers and bio-pesticides etc.

(c) Exports of tea, rice etc. have not declined. Overall exports of agricultural commodities have been steadily increasing. With a view to discourage the excessive use of pesticides, Integrated Pest Management approach is being emhpasized by Government.

Setback to the proposal for Centre for Prawn Farming

4235. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an ambitious plank to turn the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu's Quid-e-Millat District into a major centre for Prawn Farming in the country, has suffered a major setback with agitating landless agricultural labourers bringing to a halt the work in most of the Prawn Farms there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Tamil Nadu have informed that only three prawn farms in the Nagai-Quid-e-Millat district are facing some agitation from local people and by an organisation called "Land for the Tillers Freedom" (LAFTI). They have also informed that many a small prawn farms are coming up in the area without any opposition from this group of local people.

कमजोर वर्गों के पशुओं की दशा सुधारने हेतु प्रयास

4236. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने समाज के कमजोर वर्गों के पशुओं की दशा सुधारने हेतु प्रयास किये हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान इस संबंध में किये गये प्रयासों का राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेताम): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) (1) कमजोर वर्गों के उच्च पैदावार वाले पशुधन को रोगमुक्त रखने के लिए उपयोग में लाए जाने वाले खुरपका और मुँहपका रोग के टीके की लागत राजसहायता प्राप्त होती है। यह लागत 50:25:25 के समानुपात में लाभानुभोगी, केन्द्र और राज्य सरकारों द्वारा वहन की जाती है। गत तीन वर्षों में इस प्रयोजन हेतु केन्द्र द्वारा राज्यों को निर्मुक्त की गयी धनराशि विवरण में दी गयी है (**नीचे देखिए**)।

(2) केन्द्र सरकार पशु-प्लेग, तपेदिक, संसर्गज गर्भस्राव (ब्रुसिलोसिस), स्वाइन फीवर, सफेद दस्त (पुलोरम) और रदनक रैबीज को नियंत्रित करने के लिए राज्यों को 50:50 के आधार पर सहायता दे रही है।